

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An aluminium workpiece comprising on a surface thereof: an oxide film that is formed anodically, which film is 10 to 200 nm thick; and a coating on the oxide film, which coating consists essentially of at least one adhesion promoter containing one or more of Cr, Mn, Mo, Si, Ti, Zr and F, optionally containing an organic polymer, wherein the Cr, Mn, Mo, Si, Ti, Zr and F are present in inorganic form, and wherein the adhesion promoter is applied as a no-rinse coating, which is a composition consisting essentially of the adhesion promoter in a volatile vehicle which evaporates leaving a film of the adhesion promoter, or a conversion coating, which reacts chemically with the oxide film to form a film of the adhesion promoter, said workpiece being an aluminium sheet of which at least one surface has the oxide film, the adhesion promoter and a paint layer or an adhesive overlying the adhesion promoter.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The aluminium workpiece of claim 1, wherein the adhesion promoter is one containing one or more of Cr, Mn, Mo, Si, Ti and Zr.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The aluminium workpiece of claim 1, wherein the organic polymer is selected from at least one of polyacrylic acid and poly(hydroxyphenyl)styrene.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The aluminium workpiece of claim 1, wherein the oxide film is a barrier layer.

Claims 5 - 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The aluminium workpiece of claim 1, wherein the oxide film is 10-50 nm thick.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An aluminium workpiece ~~of claim 1~~ comprising on a surface thereof: an oxide film that is formed anodically, which film is 10 to 200 nm thick; and a coating on the oxide film, which coating consists essentially of at least one adhesion promoter containing one or more of Cr, Mn, Mo, Si, Ti, Zr and F, optionally containing an organic polymer, wherein the Cr, Mn, Mo, Si, Ti, Zr and F are present in inorganic form, wherein the adhesion promoter is applied as a no-rinse coating, which is a composition consisting essentially of the adhesion promoter in a volatile vehicle which evaporates leaving a film of the adhesion promoter, or a conversion coating, which reacts chemically with the oxide film to form a film of the adhesion promoter, and wherein the adhesion promoter coating is present at a weight of 2 - 100 mg/m².

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The aluminium workpiece of claim 1, which is a primed sheet for automotive use.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The aluminium workpiece of claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the paint layer is of an electro-conductive paint primer.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of treating an aluminium workpiece, which method comprises precleaning a surface of the workpiece, anodising the workpiece so as to form an anodic oxide film 10 to 200 nm thick on the surface and applying to the anodic oxide film a coating which consists essentially of at least one adhesion promoter containing one or more of Cr, Mn, Mo, Si, Ti, Zr and F, optionally containing an organic polymer, wherein the Cr, Mn, Mo, Si, Ti, Zr and F are present in inorganic form, and wherein the adhesion promoter is applied to the anodic oxide film in the form of a no-rinse coating, which is a composition consisting essentially of the adhesion promoter in a volatile vehicle which evaporates leaving a film of the adhesion promoter, or a conversion coating, which reacts chemically with the oxide film to form a film of the adhesion promoter; wherein the aluminium workpiece is aluminium sheet, the precleaned surface of the sheet is continuously anodised to form an anodic film on the surface, and a paint layer or adhesive is applied over the adhesion promoter coating.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the anodic oxide film is a barrier film.

Claims 17 - 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (new): The aluminium workpiece of claim 11, wherein the adhesion promoter is one containing one or more of Cr, Mn, Mo, Si, Ti and Zr.

Claim 23 (new): The aluminium workpiece of claim 11, wherein the organic polymer is selected from at least one of polyacrylic acid and poly(hydroxyphenyl)styrene.

Claim 24 (new): The aluminium workpiece of claim 11, wherein the oxide film is a barrier layer.

Claim 25 (new): The aluminium workpiece of claim 11, which is an aluminium sheet of which at least one surface has the oxide film, the adhesion promoter and a paint layer or an adhesive overlying the adhesion promoter.

Claim 26 (new): The aluminium workpiece of claim 11, wherein the oxide film is 10-50 nm thick.

Claim 27 (new): The aluminium workpiece of claim 11, which is a primed sheet for automotive use.